

Olney Nursery School

Olney Church Hall, High Street, Olney, Buckinghamshire MK46 4AA



Inspection date	16 October 2018
Previous inspection date	21 May 2015

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of leadership and management		Good	2
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Good	2
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Good	2
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

The provision is good

- Staff provide a stimulating learning environment and a wide range of resources are readily accessible to support children's play and ideas. Children are motivated to learn.
- Staff supervise and support children well to meet their individual needs and to help keep them safe.
- Partnerships with parents and other early years providers are strong and help to provide a shared approach to children's learning and development. Staff regularly update parents on their children's progress and share ideas and information to support their continued learning at home and in the nursery.
- The manager encourages staff to reflect on their practice to help drive improvements for the children. Self-evaluation is accurate and staff value suggestions and comments from children and parents.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Although the manager precisely tracks the progress of individual children, she has not extended this to include various groups of children to identify and address any differences in learning
- Occasionally, staff do not give children sufficient time to think through their responses to questions.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

To further improve the quality of the early years provision the provider should:

- monitor the progress made by different groups of children to help to identify any emerging gaps and close these quickly
- allow children more time to think through their responses to questions to help to develop further their deep-thinking skills.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the hall, the garden and on an outing to the park.
- The inspector held discussions with children, parents and staff.
- The inspector undertook a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector looked at observation files, monitoring systems, the self-evaluation process and a selection of policies and children's records.

Inspector

Kim Mundy

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The staff know what to do if they have concerns for a child's welfare. They know the correct procedures to follow and are clear about the nursery's whistleblowing procedures. Effective recruitment procedures are followed. A thorough induction process, staff appraisals and ongoing training opportunities, help them to gain confidence in their role. Suitable daily risk assessments are completed of the environments used by the children and the manager monitors accidents to maintain children's safety. Parents speak highly about the welcoming and caring staff, and the good progress their children make in learning.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Children make good progress from their starting points. Staff make accurate observations and assessments of children's progress and plan a variety of interesting activities. Staff provide stimulating resources to help children develop good small-muscle skills. For example, they learn to use real tools safely, such as hammers as they knock wooden pegs into holes. Children find out about living things as they plant herbs and search for conkers. Staff build on children's vocabulary by introducing new words, such as 'spiky', when describing conker shells. Staff help children to build on their good mathematical skills. For example, they count conkers, talk about 'big' and 'small', and identify colours as they roll them through paint.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff support children's emotional development well. For instance, they offer praise and encouragement throughout activities and help them to develop their confidence. Children learn right from wrong. Staff help all children to understand their feelings and develop an awareness of behavioural expectations. For example, they help them to express their feelings by using emotion cards. Staff encourage children to be healthy. For example, they follow good hygiene practices and enjoy exercise on walks in the local community. They have very good opportunities to learn about healthy eating. For example, children talk about foods on their snack-time placemats and books in the role-play area.

Outcomes for children are good

All children make good progress in their learning and development. They develop a keen interest in literacy. For example, they enjoy looking at books and listening to stories. They learn to recognise letters and their name and hold a pencil to practise early writing. Children become independent in managing their own needs. For example, they put on their outdoor clothes, cut up fruit and help lay the table for snack time. Children are working at the levels expected for their age. They develop the key skills they need for the next steps in their learning and are well prepared for the move to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	141849
Local authority	Milton Keynes
Inspection number	10071045
Type of provision	Sessional day care
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Age range of children	3 - 4
Total number of places	24
Number of children on roll	11
Name of registered person	Knightbridge, Sara Lou
Registered person unique reference number	RP512926
Date of previous inspection	21 May 2015
Telephone number	01604 620 781

Olney Nursery School registered 1996. It is open from Monday to Friday, during term-time only. The early starter group opens at 8.30am and nursery sessions operate from 9am until 1pm. The nursery is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education for children aged three- and four-years-old. There are four members of staff working at the nursery and they all hold relevant qualifications from level 2 to level 6. This includes two staff members who hold qualified teacher status.

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